

unit so that said reproduced signal output by said reproducing head is subjected to signal processing carried out on a frequency characteristic.

--41. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The recording and reproducing apparatus ~~provided~~ for a tape-shaped recording medium in accordance with claim 40, wherein said signal-processing unit carries out signal processing on a phase characteristic of said reproduced signal output by said reproducing head at a ~~second~~ predetermined angle over [[the]] an entire frequency band of said reproduced signal.

--42. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The recording and reproducing apparatus ~~provided~~ for a tape-shaped recording medium in accordance with claim 41, wherein, after said signal processing is carried out on said phase characteristic of said reproduced signal output by said reproducing head, said signal-processing unit carries out decoding processing on said reproduced signal by adoption of a method known as partial response class 4.

REMARKS

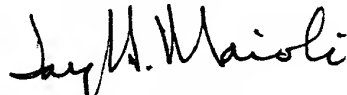
Claims 1-42 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicants are citizens and residents of Japan and this application originated there.

Accordingly, the amendments made to the specification are provided to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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